# OTOE COUNTY THREE YEAR COMPREHENSIVE JUVENILE SERVICES PLAN

January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2011

Contact Information:

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NEBRASKA COMMISSION ON LAV ENFORCEMENT AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

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### II. Community Team:

Partners for Otoe County (P4OC) is the community team involved in the Comprehensive Juvenile Service Planning for Otoe County. The Otoe County Coalition for Children, Youth and Families was established in 2001 when the original Otoe County Comprehensive Juvenile Service Plan was being developed. In August of 2007, the Otoe County Coalition for Children, Youth and Families and the Nebraska City Healthy Communities Coalition merged to form a single coalition known as Partners for Otoe County.

Partners for Otoe County has three fiscal agents — Otoe County, People United For Families and St. Mary's Community Hospital — who work in conjunction with each other and members of the coalition to do community needs assessment, capacity building, planning, implementation, sustainability and evaluation activities that bring about a healthy Otoe County community. Partners for Otoe County is open to everyone who is a citizen or representative of the Otoe County community. The full Partners for Otoe County Coalition meets approximately twice per year to establish goals and priorities and to report progress to the community. A Coordinating Committee meets 10 times per year to provide leadership, coordination and accountability for P4OC. The Coordinating Committee has one representative from each of the community sectors designated below, plus one representative for each fiscal agent as follows:

- 1. Business Community -- Shawnna Silvius, River County Economic Development
- 2. Civic/Volunteer Groups Rhae Werner, American Red Cross
- 3. Diversity Soledad Peterson, Nebraska City Public Schools
- 4. Healthcare Professionals Kay Kiechel, St. Mary's Community Hospital
- 5. Law Enforcement Tim Noerrlinger, Deputy County Attorney
- 6. Media Kathy Davenport, KNCY Radio
- 7. Parents Dotti Easter, Lourdes Central Catholic Schools
- 8. Religious Organizations Brenda Pfeifly, Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church
- 9. Schools Don Loseke, Nebraska City Public Schools
- 10. State/Local Government Agencies Kay Oestmann, SE District Health Department
- 11. Youth Tyler Wellman Syracuse-Dunbar-Avoca Schools
- 12. Youth Serving Organizations Mandy Volkmer, Behavioral Health Solutions
- 13. Fiscal Agent Dale Haverty, Otoe County Board of Commissioners
- 14. Fiscal Agent Sarah Purcell, People United For Families
- 15. Fiscal Agent Tammi Thompson, St. Mary's Community Hospital

Partners for Otoe County also has standing committees formed on the basis of identified community needs. The groups act on the recommendations/ideas brought forth by the full coalition, put those ideas into motion, share ideas and progress, gather information regarding results, and feed it back to the community. Current standing committees are:

- 1. Healthy Families
- 2. Healthy Youth
- 3. Marketing Committee
- 4. Basic Needs Committee
- 5. Leadership Committee
- 6. PACT Community Action Committee on Underage Drinking

The Healthy Youth Committee has primary responsibility for developing and implementing Otoe County's Comprehensive Juvenile Service Plan. The Healthy Youth Committee meets every one to three months, depending on the workload of the committee. Members of the committee contributing to the development of the Comprehensive Juvenile Service Plan include:

Name	Role	Address	Phone	Email
Vanessa	Otoe County Juvenile	Box 730, 920 Central	873-6343	pu40821@alltel.net
Sherman	Diversion Coordinator	Nebraska City 68410	0.000	pa-rooz regamenner
Tim	Deputy Otoe County Attorney	115 N. 10 <sup>th</sup> Street	873-9044	tnoerrlinger@yahoo.com
Noerrlinger		Nebraska City 68410		moorranger(@,yanoo.com
Amanda	Drug Free Comm. Coord.	320 5th Street, St. 201	269-3166	Ajdavis326@alltel.net
Davis	People United For Families	Syracuse, NE 68447	702 0100	Tydavis520@anter.net
Christy	Guidance Counselor	Box 130	780-5327	Merryman.chr@districtor1.net
Merryman	Palmyra High School	Palmyra, NE 68418	100000,	West American (Scalenteror) Title
Anita Lovell	Counselor, Behavioral Health	1700 14th Avenue	216-0561	anita@healthykidsomaha.com
	Solutions	Nebraska City 68410	2.0 0501	ameate nearthy kidsomana.com
Sarah Purcell	UNL Extension Educator	Box 160	269-2062	spurcell2@unl.edu
		Syracuse, NE 68446	2002	<u>apareenziadum,edu</u>
Traci Reuter	Healthy Communities Coord.	1314 3rd Avenue	873-8937	treuter@stez.org
····	St. Mary's Comm. Hospital	Nebraska City 68410	075-0757	dedicinosiez.org
Janet	LMHP, Choices Treatment	2737 N. 49 <sup>th</sup>	476-2300	Choices934@windstream.net
Johnson	Center	Lincoln, NE 68504	170-2500	Choices 334 (a windstream.net
Linda Unger	State of Nebraska Probation	1021 Central Avenue	873-9570	pounger@hotmail.com
	Officer	Nebraska City 68410	010 3070	pounger(asionnair.com
Rena Pugh	Family Development Assoc.	200 N. 3 <sup>rd</sup> # 601	873-6459	sececomnbcy@windstream.net
	SE NE Community Action	Nebraska City 68410	075 0455	seecconinucy(@windstream.net
Katy Bovick	After School Club Coord.	Box 730, 920 Central	873-6343	kbovick@windstream.net
·····	People United For Families	Nebraska City 68410	075 0515	KOOVICKIO WINGSUEZIII. IIEL
Brooke	Growing Great Kids Coord.	601 "J" Street	274-3993	brooke@sedhd.org
Chaney	SE District Health Dept.	Auburn, NE 68305	1	<u>brooketaseana.org</u>
Bob Kohles	LMHP, Blue Valley Mental	1903 4th Corso	873-6374	bkohles@bybh.net
	Health Services	Nebraska City 68410	070 0574	CKOMES(4)OVOILHEL
Don Loseke	Special Services Director	215 N. 12 <sup>th</sup> Street	070 6000	
	NE City Public Schools	Nebraska City 68410	873-6033	dloseke@esu4.org
Stacie	Program Coordinator		070 (0.10	
Higgins	TeamMates Mentoring Prog.	Box 730, 920 Central Nebraska City 68410	873-6343	teammates@alltel.net
Jacki	People United For Families		050 (0.10	
Schmitz	- copie officer for rannings	Box 730, 920 Central	873-6343	puffnc@alltel.net
		Nebraska City 68410		

### III. Juvenile Justice System Analysis Tool:

The Partners for Otoe County Healthy Youth Committee met on September 18, 2008 to complete the Juvenile Justice System Analysis Tool for Otoe County under the direction of Julie Rogers, from the Juvenile Justice Institute at the University of Nebraska - Omaha. Preliminary recommendations were shared with committee members at subsequent committee meetings on October 23, 2008 and November 20, 2008. The Otoe County Juvenile Justice Systems Assessment was finalized on November 20, 2008 and appears in Appendix A of this document. Gaps were identified in six areas, summarized below:

1. Geographic issues – The rural nature of Otoe County requires residents to travel to Lincoln or Omaha in order to receive many types of services, creating time and transportation issues for accessing juvenile services.

- 2. Limited staff/secure options Otoe County is geographically located in the middle of two staff/secure options in Lancaster and Sarpy Counties, approximately 45 minutes each direction, requiring probation/law enforcement staff to transport any time a circumstance arrives where a juvenile needs to be detained. A juvenile detoxification facility is also sometimes needed. Electronic monitoring is not currently available as a service for Otoe County probationers.
- 3. Data and information management issues Data collection and information sharing is needed from one point of the system to the others in an efficient, accurate and timely manner.
- 4. Expanded juvenile offender issues First time juvenile offenders are being sited at younger ages and for a wider variety of offences, creating the need to expand diversion programming. There are also times when the juvenile and/or their parents do not speak English as their first language.
- 5. Alcohol use Alcohol use among juveniles remains a significant concern.
- 6. Issues related to the HHS/OJS System Staff shortages, high turnover and changes in how cases are being approached create challenges for timely, appropriate services for juveniles and for developing relationships among HHS/OJS personnel and other system providers. Juveniles often have more service options available to them if placed with OJS rather than probation.

### IV. Community Socio-Economics:

Otoe County is a county of 15,747 people located in Southeast Nebraska. The average resident age is 41 years old. The oldest and largest community in Otoe County is Nebraska City, located on the Missouri River approximately 50 miles south of Omaha and 50 miles east of Lincoln. Approximately half of the people who live in Otoe County are residents of Nebraska City, the other half are located in Dunbar, Syracuse, Unadilla and Palmyra along Highway # 2 or are residents of small agriculturally-based communities such as Avoca, Burr, Otoe, Paul, Lorton and Talmage. Otoe County is a high-intensity highway traffic area, with highway # 2 crossing Otoe County east to west and intersecting with Highway # 75 at Nebraska City, which runs north to south. Interstate # 29 runs north to south just three miles East of Otoe County along the Missouri River in Iowa.

In Otoe County 76% of children under 18 have all parents in the labor force, so the majority of parents in Otoe County require supervision for their children when they work. Some children are home alone after school, particularly in upper elementary and middle school. With a large number of manufacturing and service jobs in the community and many people working more than one job, workers are often scheduled at night or on weekends when children are out of school. Otoe County workers have an average 20-minute commute, and 31.8% commute outside the county for their jobs (RCEDC Website). Some families move to small towns for lower rent prices. The number of children living in homes with a single head of household nearly doubled from 349 in the 1990 Census to 638 in the 2000 Census, as did the percentage of children with single parents living in poverty (Kids Count in Nebraska, 2004.) The median household income of Otoe County is \$28,977 compared to a state median of \$29,308. The unemployment rate is approximately 3.5%. Although just 9% of the county population lives below the federal poverty level, among children, 36.12% of Nebraska City Public School children, 20.1% of Syracuse-

Dunbar-Avoca (S-D-A) school children and 20.8% of Palmyra District OR-1 children qualify for free/reduced price meals, compared to 36.42% statewide (NDE website).

There are three K-12 public school districts located in Otoe County. They are: Nebraska City Public Schools (1,362 students,) Syracuse-Dunbar-Avoca Schools (781 students,) and Palmyra-Bennett Schools (456 students.) There is also one parochial school, Lourdes Central Catholic Schools (331 students.) The Hispanic population is young and growing rapidly. In 2006-2007 there were 161 (13.7%) Hispanic children enrolled in Nebraska City Public Schools (NCPS), and 4.7% of students were English language learners. (NDE website)

### Statistical Data for Otoe County

Gender & Ethnicity	Total Popul	ation of Grant Area	Total Juvenile	Population of Grant 17 and under)
Otoe County 2002	Number	% of total	Number	% of total
Male	7,786	49.0%	1,910	53.0%
Female	7,961	51.0%	1,721	47.0%
Hispanic	525	3.3%	218	6.3%
Non-Hispanic	15,222	96.7%	3,460	93.7%
White	15,558	98.7%	3,631	98.7%
Black	77	0.4%	21	0.5%
American Indian	59	0.3%	$\frac{1}{7}$	0.1%
Asian	53	0.3%	19	<del></del>
Other	0	0.0%	0	0.5%
Total	15,747	100.00%	3,678	0.0%

Source of Data: Easy Access to Juvenile Populations 2006, OJJDP website

### V. Identified Priority Areas

The Partners for Otoe County Healthy Youth Committee identified six priority community problems at their meeting on November 20, 2008. Some are continuing priorities from the 2006-2008 plan and some are new priorities. Otoe County problem statements are listed below in no particular order of priority:

- 1. Underage youth in Otoe County are using alcohol at unacceptable rates that exceed state and national averages. (continuing priority)
- 2. Children are exposed to and/or engage in high-risk behaviors at younger ages when compared to previous years. (new priority)
- 3. Youth are often unsupervised when not in school. (continuing priority)
- 4. Adequate financial and human resources for sustaining existing services are not available locally. (new priority)

One priority from the 2006-2008 plan "Methamphetamine use is affecting health and safety of Otoe County youth" was discontinued. Two problems from the 2006-2008 plan – "People in Otoe County do not hold themselves or their children responsible for their actions" and "Accurate and timely information is not available from one point of the system to another." were

determined to be system gaps that are underlying causes contributing to the four problems listed above, rather than being the community problems.

The problem statements were developed after participants prioritized current service gaps identified in the Juvenile Justice System Analysis and in analysis of Otoe County's prevention system, which were ranked in order of priority. Gap areas below receiving a priority score of "1" were the lowest ranked priorities, each receiving one priority ranking. "Early intervention services", was the highest priority, ranked at "9", because it received nine priority rankings from committee members participating in the assessment process. All of the identified gaps appear below with the number of priority rankings received marked in front of each gap area:

Ranking	Prevention/Intervention System Gap Area
9	Early intervention services
7	Sustainability of existing resources
7	Responsive/Timely appropriate services for state wards
6	Substance abuse treatment that is affordable, accessible, age appropriate;
6	Mental health services that are affordable, accessible, right type and dosage, and people are willing to access
5	Appropriate services for younger juvenile offenders, those who have a wider variety of offenses, and those with limited English proficiency
5	After school programming that is accessible for all Otoe County children, K-8
4	Parenting resources and education and parents participating in what is currently available
3	Elementary guidance counselor for Nebraska City students
3	Communication and information sharing among system points, schools and service providers
1	Tracker services for probationers
1	Staffing/transportation/dollars for secure juvenile services and juvenile detoxification
1	Interpreters and translators
1	Appropriate/timely intervention for truancy (low number of cases, but action is needed when it happens

# Description and Status of Priority Community Problem Statements

Community	Supporting Data - Why	What Strategies Are Currently in Place for Addressing	What System Gaps Need to be Addressed in Order	in Order
Problem	is this a Problem?	Community Problem?	to Solve the Community Problem?	13
1. Underage	2007 NE Risk &	DARE Education	<ul> <li>People in Otoe County holding themselves and</li> </ul>	ves and
youth in	Protective Factor Student	All Stars taught in schools	their children responsible for following the law	the law
Otoe County	Survey Data indicates	PACT group in place working on pubic policy changes	and their behavior if the law is not followed	wed
are using	49% of Otoe County	to reduce the supply of alcohol to minors	<ul> <li>Access to substance abuse treatment that is</li> </ul>	ıt is
alcohol at	seniors used alcohol in the	Beverage Server Training for employees of alcohol	affordable, accessible, age appropriate	
unacceptable	past 30 days, 33% were	outlets	<ul> <li>Access to a detoxification facility for intoxicated</li> </ul>	toxicated
rates that	involved in binge	Special enforcement to deter underage	youth when needed	****
exceed state	dimining in the past 2	use/DUI/procurement	<ul> <li>Appropriate services for younger juveniles who</li> </ul>	les who
iru iranomai	weeks and 20% used	Sticker Shock campaigns	use alcohol/tobacco/drugs, and those with limited	th limited
avel ages.	the most record	• "800" party tip line	English proficiency	
	the past year.	Operation Graduation	<ul> <li>Parent participation/consent for relevant</li> </ul>	
		<ul> <li>Juvenile Diversion for 1<sup>st</sup> offense MIPs</li> </ul>	prevention and early-intervention services	es
		Safe Homes Parent Network	currently available.	
		Parent education activities	<ul> <li>Sustainability of existing resources</li> </ul>	
		PRIDE, STOP, PARTY – drug-free student	<ul> <li>Access to a full-time elementary guidance</li> </ul>	90
		organizations	counselor in NE City	
2. Children	2007 Data from Otoe	Youth Assistance Program – Blue Valley	<ul> <li>Intervention/services at the earliest point possible</li> </ul>	t possible
are exposed	County Court:	<ul> <li>Student Assistance Teams at schools</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Responsive/timely/appropriate services for state</li> </ul>	for state
to and/or	22 abuse/neglect petitions	<ul> <li>Community-Based Behavioral Health Services</li> </ul>	wards	
engage in	filed - Children involved	<ul> <li>School Guidance Counselors</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Appropriate services for juvenile offenders who:</li> </ul>	ers who:
high-risk	in 12 abuse/ neglect	School Improvement Plan projects in areas of	are younger, have a wider variety of offenses, and	enses, and
behaviors at	petitions are waiting for	improved reading and student behavior	limited English proficiency	
younger ages	CASA services;	<ul> <li>All Stars and Character Counts! Instruction in schools</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Access to mental health &amp; substance abuse</li> </ul>	lse
wnen compared to	2007 involving vonth age	<ul> <li>Growing Great Kids</li> </ul>	services that are affordable, accessible, right type	ight type
nrevious	15 and under compared	<ul> <li>Study Buddies Tutoring</li> </ul>	and dosage, that people are willing to access	ssac
previous vears.	to 103 in 2006:	TeamMates Mentoring	<ul> <li>Communication and information sharing among</li> </ul>	; among
	45 out of the 157 law	Juvenile Diversion Program	system points, schools and service providers	ders
	violations involve vouth	<ul> <li>Expanded services for probationers</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Data systems that are current, compatible and have</li> </ul>	e and have
	under the age of 15:	<ul> <li>Child Protective Services</li> </ul>	the capacity to run queries at HHS, law	
	Last data entered into	<ul> <li>FYI Wraparound services for families with adolescents</li> </ul>	enforcement agencies, county attorney, county	ounty
	Crime Commission	who have behavioral/mental health diagnosis	court, probation, and diversion offices	
	database by Sheriff's	Steering Committee formed to implement CASA	Appropriate/timely intervention for truancy	icy
	Office in 8/05.	Monthly 1184 Child Abuse Team Meetings	<ul> <li>People in Otoe County holding themselves and</li> </ul>	es and
		Community Resource Directory	their children responsible for their actions	SS.

		l				
3. Youth are	76.3% of Otoe County	•	In-home daycare & daycare centers	•	Removal of barriers to participation such as fees,	Γ
often	youth (17 & under) have	•	Kids Club before/after school at Hayward Elementary		transportation and responsibilities for the care of	
unsupervised	all parents in the		in Nebraska City		younger siblings that prevent some youth from	_
when not in	workforce. (Kids Count	•	Some churches offer after school programming on		participating in the day care, after school, athletic	
school.	Census Data Online 2007)		Wednesdays		and recreational programs that are available	
	***	٠	Girl Scout, Boy Scout and 4-H programs	•	Sustainability of existing resources	
	Waiting lists at some day	•	Free After School Clubs for middle school students at	•	Sufficient volunteers to serve all the youth who	
	care centers, church after		Syracuse and NE City middle schools		want to participate in the youth programming	
	School programs, Mds	•	Parks & Recreation programs at Syracuse & NE City		available in Otoe County	
		•	4*-6" grade Affiletics for $7^{th}$ -12 <sup>th</sup> graders in all school systems			
4. Adequate	Although the number of	•	\$13,913 in Juvenile Service County Aid funds are	•	Sustainability of existing resources	Υ
financial and	youth served in Otoe Co.		available annually	•	Funding to start CASA services	
human	annually is increasing, NE	•	United Way of Nebraska City funding provides some \$	•	Additional volunteers to allow more children to be	
resources for	Juvenile Justice Grant \$		for Study Buddies, TeamMates, After School Clubs,		served in mentoring and tutoring programs	
sustaining	are being reduced by		Growing Great Kids and local recreational programs	•	Funding if needed to provide tracker services for	
existing	\$17,875 from the 2007-	•	Funding from local foundations, including Steinhart,		probationers: Staffing/transportation for secure	
services are	2008 fiscal year to the		Nelson, Kropp and Wirth foundations provide funding		invenile services and invenile detoxification	
not available	2008-2009 fiscal year and		to programs listed above.		Interpreters and translators	
locally.	continue to step down	٠	Otoe County picked up Juvenile Diversion services as		4	
	25% per year;		part of its general fund after the Juvenile Justice Grant			
	\$100,000 in annual		ended			
	Substance Abuse					
	Prevention Grant \$ will					
	end in 2011; and Growing					
	Great Kids Grant \$ will					
	end in 2010					

# VI. Strategies

Goal: Reduce youth involvement in risk behaviors.

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alcohol	
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Reduce un	
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Objective 1	
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Intervention	Strateoies	Timeline	Doenoneihility	D	
Continuation	1 Continue DA	Ongoing	Viniginal T. Carle	Resources Needed	Expected Results
Strategies		Smosmo	NULL L'Ancaster Sherit;	Continued funding for	Improved relationships between
	schools		INE State Fattol	materials	law enforcement and youth
	2. Continue All Stars instruction in	Ongoing	NCMS Health Teacher	Continue for the	50 TO CO
	grades 7-8 at Nebraska City Middle	Smooth .	TOTAL TIVATURE I CAVILLE	Communication imping for	Age of I" use delayed, increased
	Schools			materials and evaluation	perception of risk/harm, inc. pro-
	2 Continue officer of DB ID III carons and		;	beyond 2009	social bonding, idealism
	DARTE THE SHOTES OF FRIDE, STOP and	Ongoing	Faculty sponsors at each	Funding/opportunities for	Pro-social support for being
	FAR1 Y student organizations to reduce		school	club activities and youth	alcohol free until 21 among
	underage drinking.			leadership development	participants = reduced 30-day use
	4. Continue special enforcement	Ongoing	NCPD, Otoe County	Continued cooperation	Reduced incidents of MTP/DIII
	operations and Sticker Shock media		Sheriff's Office, PACT	among partners;	and injury accidents in Otoe
	campaign to deter incidents of Minor in		Coordinator	Continued Highway	County during special enforcement
	Possession and Driving Under the			Safety Grant funds for	periods
	Influence at peak times such as holidays.			personnel/ overtime	
	5. Continue Operation Graduation effort	Ongoing	NCPD, Otoe County	Continued cooperation	Reduced incidents of procuring
	to deter underage drinking/ procurement		Sheriff's Office, PACT	among partners & funding	alcohol for minors MTP DITT &
	over prom/ graduation season.		Coordinator, schools	for personnel and postage	injury accidents at oraquation
	6. Continue Juvenile Diversion Program	Ongoing	Juvenile Diversion Coord.	Continuation funding for	Reduced recidivism among
	for first-time offenders of minor in		Deputy County Attorney	JD Coord, salary &	invenile diversion participants
	possession and their parents			volunteer presenters	Jarems arciston paracipants
Policy/	PACT Committees will select at least one	Annually,	PACT Committee, PACT	Continuation funding for	Reduction in 30-day use rates
Procedure	local policy, procedure or practice for	2009-	Coordinator, DFC	personnel & related	binge drinking and drinking and
Changes	change per year in the Nebraska City and	2011	Coordinator	expenses for coordination	driving for Otoe County youth in
	Syracuse communities to reduce access of			of program beyond 2011	grades 6-12
Training	1 Office Control of the Carlotte Induction of Induction o			The state of the s	
Hammig	1. Oner ongoing Kesponsible Beverage	2 times/	PACT Coordinator,	Funds for personnel &	Increased percentage of alcohol
	Server Training open to all liquor license	year 2009-	NCPD	presenters 2009-2011	vendors pass compliance checks
	notiders and their employees.	2011			•
	2. Otter Youth Leadership Training so	Spring,	P4OC Leadership	Volunteer presenters,	Increased youth participation in
	Otoe County youth can increase their	5000	Committee, DFC	Funds for facility rental,	leadership positions in the Otoe
	leadersing skills beginning in 2009.		Coordinator	food, transportation 2009	County community
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Current	1. Expand All Mars Program to grades	-5007	one neally reacher,	Communication infinitely for	Age of 1 use detayed, increased
Program	4 -9 at Syracuse and Palmyra-Bennett	2011	Palmyra student advisors	materials and evaluation	perception of risk/harm, inc. pro-
Expansion	Schools by 2010.	ongoing		beyond 2009	social bonding, idealism
	2. Expand compliance checks so that all	Annually,	NCPD, Otoe County	Youth volunteers,	Increased percentage of alcohol
	liquor license holders in Otoe County are	2009-	Sherriff's Office, PACT	Continued Grant funds for	vendors pass compliance checks
	checked at least once annually by 2009.	2011	Coordinator	personnel/ overtime	
	3. Continue to shift prosecution focus to	2009-	Otoe County Attorney,	Cooperation among	Increase in the percentage of
	adults who procure for minors, strengthen	2011	NCPD, Otoe County	partners involved	suppliers prosecuted for procuring
	deterrent to procurement over the next 3	ongoing	Sherriff's Office, St.		when MIP incidents occur
	years-add ER staff to investigation loop.		Mary's Hospital		
-	3. Increase the number of families	2009-	PACT Committee,	Cooperation among	Increase in the number of families
	participating in the Safe Homes Parent	2011	schools in Otoe County	partners involved, funds	listed in and participating in
	Network each year.	ongoing		for postage, printing	network
	4. Develop relevant diversion	2009-	Juvenile Diversion	Availability of	Reduced recidivism among
	plans/curriculum for offenders under the	2011	Coordinator	appropriate curriculum	juvenile diversion participants
	age of 15 and those with limited English	ongoing		materials, presenters,	
	proficiency in 2009.			translators, interpreters	
Program	Implement "800" Party Tip Line to report	-5003	PACT Coordinator	Support of law	Reduced incidents of MIP, DUI,
Development	or prevent underage drinking parties by	2011		enforcement, Highway	Reduced Binge Drinking rates
,	2000	onoono		Safety Office, citizens	among high school students

Objective 2: Children who are exposed to and/or engage in risk behaviors will receive appropriate services at the earliest point of intervention possible.

Intervention	Strategies	Timelines	Responsibility	Resources Needed	Expected Results
Continuation	1. Continue student referrals to Youth	Ongoing	Schools, community-based	Continuation funding	Children are connected with
Strategies	Assistance Program as appropriate.		service providers	for counseling services	counseling services to meet needs
	2. Continue student referrals to school	Ongoing	Schools, community-based	Continuation of SAT	Children are connected with
	Student Assistance Teams as appropriate.		service providers	teams at schools	appropriate services to meet needs
-	3. Continue youth referrals to behavioral	Ongoing	Schools, community-based	Services continue to be	Behavioral health of children
	health/counseling services as appropriate.		service providers	available locally	improves
	4. Continue referrals to FYI wraparound	Ongoing	Schools, community-based	Continuation funding	Behavioral health of children
	services as appropriate.		service providers	for wraparound services	improves
	5. Continue referrals to Growing Great	Ongoing	NC Medical Clinic,	Sustainability funding	Reduced child abuse, increased
	Kids as appropriate.		community-based providers	beyond 3-year grant	pro-social bonding with family
	6. Continue referrals to Juvenile	Ongoing	Otoe County Attorney	Continued personnel	Reduced recidivism among
	Diversion Program as appropriate.			funding from county	juvenile diversion participants
	7. Continue prevention efforts such as	Ongoing	Schools, PUFF, TeamMates	Local sustainability	Increased grades & attendance at
	Teammates and Study Buddies as		ofNC	funding & volunteers to	school; reduced referrals for
	appropriate.			continue services	discipline

	8 Continue monthly 1184 Child Abres			,	
	Team meetings.	Smogno	Owe county Audiney	of key service providers	Expedient, appropriate resolution
Policy/	1. Implement procedure for tracking the	Ĭanuary.	DAOC Haglehy Voneth	Time of Arce providers	of cuite abuse/neglect allegations
Procedure	mimber of numer needs and a mostal	January-		Ilme and cooperation	I he number of children in Otoe
Change	transcrott of miner needs, such as mental	December	Committee; Project Director	of stakeholders	County who need each service in a
Changes	nearm services, substance abuse services,	2009		involved in collecting	year will be identified
••••	tracker services, interpreter services,			accurate data	
	transportation and truancy intervention				
	beginning in 2009.				
	2. Analyze data and seek out appropriate	January-	P4OC Healthy Youth	Time and effort of folks	Service providers will be recruited
	providers to close local service gaps by	December	Committee; Project Director	designated by	to close service gaps
	3. Develop a process for increasing	0107		committee	
	communication among service points	April-	Family Resource Center	Time and cooperation	More courings will be adversed for
	when Family Resource Center opens in	December	Staff; P40C Healthy Youth	of Family Resource	children to most their individual
	2009 and make sure personnel at all	2009	Committee	Center staff, occupant	needs
	points of the system are familiar with the			agencies and other	Children smill received from the single
	resources currently available in the			community coming	children will receive services in a
	community			community service	timely manner
Theological	1 M.1.1. 1.11 1.1 1.			providers	
Trammg	I. Make child abuse/neglect training	2 times/	P4OC Healthy Families	Funds for presenters	Service providers will recognize/
	available in Otoe County for those who	year 2009-	Committee	presenter fees &	report signs of abuse/neolect as
	provide services for children at least	2011		personnel to participate	appropriate
	twice per year by 2009.	,		& 2009-2011	Canada de la companya
	2. Update and distribute English/Spanish	Spring,	P4OC Marketing	Funds for printing; Info	Increased use of services currently
	Community Resource Directory in 2009.	2009	Committee	from service providers	available in the community
Current	1. Develop relevant diversion	January-	Juvenile Diversion	Funding for materials.	Reduced recidivism among
Program	plans/curriculum for offenders under the	December	Coordinator; P4OC Healthy	interpreters, translators	invenile diversion participants:
Expansion	age of 15 and those with limited English	2009	Youth Committee	•	Increased participation of parents
	proticiency in 2009.				*
Program	1. Implement Otoe County CASA	2009-	CASA Steering Committee;	Start-up funding to	Children involved in abuse/newleat
Development	program by 2009.	2011	CASA Coordinator	implement program	will get safe nermanent homes:
	1	•			stay out of II system
	2. Implement use of Service Point	March	P40C Basic Needs	Time and cooneration	Increased use of seminas assistable
	Software by organizations in Otoe County	2009-	Committee; Family	of key service providers	in the community. Data collected
	to facilitate communication among	March	Resource Center Staff	to enter needed data	to be used to fill system gans in the
	service providers and track unmet needs.	2010		into the system	community

Objective 3:	Objective 3: Increase youth involvement in constructive, supervised activities in and out of school.	structive, s	supervised activities in	and out of school.	
Intervention	Strategies	Timelines	Responsibility	Resources Needed	Expected Results
Continuation	1. Continue After School Clubs at the	Ongoing	Schools, People United	Sustainability funding	Increased student attendance;
Strategies	middle schools in Nebraska City and		For Families	as ASC grant steps	Children are engaged in supervised,
	Syracuse.			down	constructive activities
	2. Continue referrals to licensed day care	Ongoing	Community-based service	Services continue to be	Children are in safe, supervised
	providers as requested and appropriate.		providers	available locally	settings when parents are at work
	3. Continue referrals to Kids Club as	Ongoing	Schools, community-	Service continues;	Student participation maximized;
	requested and appropriate.		based service providers	Continuation funding	Children are engaged in supervised,
					constructive activities
	4. Promote awareness of after school	Ongoing	City of Syracuse, City of	Continuation funding to	Student participation maximized;
	activities provided by park & recreation		Nebraska City, Schools,	sustain local services;	Children are engaged in supervised,
	departments, schools at local churches.		community-based service	Coalition partners help	constructive activities
			providers	promote activities	
Policy/	1. Implement procedure for tracking	January-	P4OC Healthy Youth	Time and cooperation	The number of children in Otoe
Procedure	waiting lists and the number of children	December	Committee; Project	of stakeholders	County who need each service in a
Changes	who cannot access day care or supervised	2010	Director	involved in collecting	year will be identified; barriers to
	activities.			accurate data	participation will be identified
	2. Analyze data and seek out potential	January-	P4OC Healthy Youth	Time and effort of folks	Quality service providers will be
	providers to close local service gaps.	December	Committee; Project	designated by	recruited to close service gaps
		2011	Director	committee	1
Current	<ol> <li>Explore the possibility of expanding</li> </ol>	August –	S-D-A Middle School	Funding for club	More children involved in safe,
Program	After School Clubs in Syracuse to lower	December	Principal; After School	leaders, materials,	supervised, constructive activities
Expansion	grades when the new middle school	2010	Program Coordinator	operating expenses	when parents are at work
	ounding opens.				

Objective 4: Develop human and financial resources for sustaining a comprehensive juvenile service system in Otoe County. of intervention possible.

Intervention	Strategies	Timelines	Responsibility	Resources Needed	Fernand Dosmite
Continuation	1. Continue to apply for funds from the	Ongoing	Community-hased service	People to write	Tocal according
Strateores	I Inited Way of Nebrascha Citty to sustain	0	and the second second second	min order t	Local prevention services currently
caream ma	loot mounting of the last of the sustain		providers	proposals, program	in place sustained at current scale
	local prevention services.		-	volunteers & funds	
				available at United Way	
	2. Continue to apply to local foundations	Ongoing	Community-based service	People to write grants,	Local prevention services currently
	to sustain local prevention services.		providers and schools	volunteers & local	in place sustained at current scale
	;			foundation \$ available	•
	5. Continue to apply for Juvenile Service	Ongoing	Project Director; Otoe	Project Director time to	Local juvenile services currently in
	County Aid funds to sustain juvenile		County Commissioners	coordinate and manage	place sustained at current scale.
	justice efforts in Otoe County.			grant	grant managed appropriately
Policy/	1. Determine appropriate committee	March-	P4OCCoordinating	Time and effort of	Increased clarity of coalition as
Procedure	structure and responsibility centers for	December	Committee	committee members	provider roles/responsibilities
Changes	sustaining strategies initiated through	2009			SALITINAS LOS LOS LOS LOS LOS LOS LOS LOS LOS LO
	P40C.				
Training	1. Train leaders of prevention program	June –	Project Director;	Funds for presenter	Training participants will increase
	providers in sustainability strategies.	December	P4OCCoordinating	fees/travel & personnel	revenue generated through
		2009	Committee	to participate	sustainability efforts after training
Current	1. Update P4OC's sustainability plan so	March-	Project Director;	Time and effort of	Plan developed for sustaining
Program	that existing services/strategies are	December	P4OCCoordinating	committee members.	P40C and its strategies that need
Expansion	sustained through 2011.	2009	Committee	project director	sustaining
	2. Develop the financial resources to	January-	CASA Steering Committee.	Time and effort of	CASA program implemented in
	implement the Otoe County CASA	December	Project Director	committee members.	accordance with nlanned timelines
	program by 2009.	2009	•	project director	company pages and company
Program	<ol> <li>Complete development plans to fund</li> </ol>	2010-	Healthy Youth Committee	Start-up funding to	Reduced barriers to narticination in
Development	any of the unmet needs determined to be	2011		implement any	services recommended for invenile
	a priority by the coalition after data			programs identified in	offenders' reduction in local
	analysis in 2010. (see Objective 2, B, 2			Objective 2 for closing	Service cans at the time of the next
	and Objective 2, B, 2)			service gaps	system assessment

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DEC 29 2008

## NEBRASKA COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT Ploe County Juvenile Justice System Analysis Tool CRIMINAL JUSTICE COUNTY STORT COU

Partners for Otoe County Healthy Youth Committee met to discuss the Juvenile Justice System Analysis tool to inform the completion of Otoe County's Juvenile Services Comprehensive Plan for 2009-2011. Julie Rogers of the Juvenile Justice Institute led the discussion.

Those present included individuals representing the Otoe County Attorney's office, People United For Families, District OR-1 Schools, Otoe County Juvenile Diversion, SENCA, Behavioral Health Solutions, and Probation. Those not present were given the opportunity to contribute.

The following was created by the meeting facilitator based on discussion of the juvenile justice professionals present:

Community Planning Decision Point Analysis

### **Otoe County Data**

Data Points	Total Population	uvenile Population
Total Population	15,747	1,754
Male	7,786	942
Female	7,961	812
White	15,558	1,732
Black/African American	77	11
Asian	53	7
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	Not reported	Not reported
American Indian	59	4
Hispanic	525	91
Juveniles Arrested	N/a	157
Juveniles Detained	N/a	17
Juveniles Prosecuted	N/a	118
Juveniles Placed in Diversion	N/a	39
Number of Juveniles Adjudicated	N/a	128
YRTC-Kearney commitments	N/a	1
YRTC-Geneva commitments	N/a	1

### Sources:

<sup>\*</sup>Demographic data source - OJJDP website "Easy Access to Juvenile Populations, 2006 (Juvenile Population Ages 10-17)

<sup>\*\*</sup>Juveniles Arrested/Detained/Prosecuted/Adjudicated/Diversion - Otoe County Attorney's Office - 2007

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		STX	Waije	Pontale ( OB Centile	hellono (vin			
		J		Come Rep				
		Resi	illi Sei	Liference	ds round			
«Referral Description	Total		Black	Native	Misklesin American	Asign	Other/Unknown	Percent of Total
MAJOR OFFENSES					O2-Crassive Caracteristics	No Caracteristics	ET PET MED DET ENSERT VALUE CONTROLLER SE	Transfer Management
Murder	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Manslaughter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Assault-1st/2nd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Assault-3rd	10	7	0	0	0	0	3	7.35%
Sexual Assault-1st	0	0	Ō	0	0	0	0	0%
Sexual Assault-2nd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Robbery	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Drug-Felony	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
<u>Drug-Misdemeanor</u>	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0.74%
Arson-Felony	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
<u>Arson-Misdemeanor</u>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Burglary	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.74%
Unauth Use Motor Vehicle	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
<u>Theft &gt; \$1500</u>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
<u>Theft &lt; \$1500</u>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
<u>Theft &lt; \$500</u>	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	1.47%
<u>Theft &lt; \$200</u>	4	1	0	0	0	0	3	2.94%
<u>Crim Mischief-Fel</u>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Crim Mischief-Misd	5	2	0	0	0	0	3	3.68%
<u>Major Trespass</u>	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	1.47%
Forgery-Felony	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
<u>Forgery-Misd - Major</u>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
<u> Weapon-Felony - Major</u>	0	0	0	. 0	0	0	0	0%
<u>Weapon-Misd</u>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
DŲI	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
<u>Disturbing Peace</u>	9	7	0	0	0	0	2	6.62%
Other Felony	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Other Misdemeanor	44	26	1	0	2	0	15	32.35%
Totals For All Major Offenses	78	46	1	0	2	0	29	57.35%

# Juvenile Justice System Analysis Tool October 2008

MINOR OFFENSES			**************************************	and about the gar result, yet the first own consists about the	r afrifether er ett. I til tillgleich a prosener is er ein ball deutschafte.	the Williams and the Control Springer Springer	residentification in the control of the color of a regide of the conference of a second of	
Running Away	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Truancy	6	0	0	0	0	0	6	4.41%
Curfew	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	2.21%
<u>Ungov Behavior</u>	5	3	0	0	0	0	2	3.68%
Poss Alcohol	19	17	0	0	1	0	1	13.97%
Other Status	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Totals For All Minor Offenses	33	23	0	0	1	0	9	24.26%
NON OFFENSES				The Company of the Co				I
<u>Neglect</u>	3	0	0	0	1	0	2	2.21%
<u>Dependent</u>	5	1	0	0	0	0	4	3.68%
Totals For All Non Offenses	8	1	0	0	1	0	6	5.88%
UNKNOWN OFFENSES	Art & A. House and A. House & S.			T 27		W. A. The Committee of Street, Street, Street, St.	and the state of t	
Other/Unknown	17	10	0	0	0	0	7	12.50%
Totals For All Unknown Offenses	17	10	0	0	0	0	7	12.50%
Totals All Offenses	136	80	1	0	4	0	51	100.00%

### **Arrest/Citation**

Police/Law Enforcement

<u>Decision</u>: Whether an information report should be filed, or what offense, if any, with which juvenile should be cited or arrested

### **Formal Determining Factors**

- Sufficient factual basis to believe offense committed
- Underlying support for a particular offense

### **Informal Determining Factors**

- Law enforcement records every contact
- Youth and/or youth's families perceived low status
- Cooperation between law enforcement
- Generational issues are affecting how juveniles are perceived

**Comments:** The Sheriff's office has not reported Crime Commission data for the previous 16 months, leaving a gap in current data.

Decision: Whether to cite or arrest juvenile for juvenile or adult

### Formal Determining Factors

- Criteria set forth in Neb. Rev. Stat. § 43-276, i.e. seriousness of offense, age.

### **Informal Determining Factors**

- If youth is under HHS or on probation, law enforcement is contacting respective agency to make determination
- Contacts tracked by law enforcement

<u>Decision</u>: Whether to take juvenile into custody or to cite and release (NRS § 43-248(1), (2); § 43-250(1), (2), (3))

### **Formal Determining Factors**

- As stated in statute

### **Informal Determining Factors**

- Immediate risk to juvenile
- Immediate/short term risk to public
- Seriousness of perceived offense
- Extent parent/responsible adult available

**Initial Detention** 

State of Nebraska Probation

<u>Decision</u>: Whether juvenile should be detained or released

### **Formal Determining Factors**

- Risk assessment outcome
- Accessibility of placement options: parents/guardians, emergency shelter, staff secure facility, secure detention facility

### **Informal Determining Factors**

 Detention options in Sarpy and Lancaster Counties, Madison County if needed

### Discussion Notes:

- Use of electronic monitoring at this point is not seen as needed. There was general consensus that juveniles are being appropriately detained.
- Initial detention is the county's cost—approximately \$240 per day. After adjudication, any detention is the state's cost.
- A detention center established in Otoe County would be ideal.

**System Decision Point:** 

Charge Juvenile

County Attorney

<u>Decision</u>: Whether to prosecute juvenile

### **Formal Determining Factors**

- Sufficient evidence to support charge

- Factors under Neb. Rev. Stat. § 43-276

### **Informal Determining Factors**

- Otoe County's diversion program eligibility and acceptance

### Discussion Notes:

- There has been a change in the Otoe County Attorney twice in the past three years.
- The number of juvenile prosecutions has significantly increased.
- During this time there has been a spike in the serious crimes committed by juveniles and more disciplinary issues in the schools. This is thought to be because of generational, "ripple effect" problems of marginalized, lower socio-economic level families.

<u>Decision</u>: Whether youth should be prosecuted as juvenile or adult

### **Formal Determining Factors**

### - Seriousness of offense

- Factors under Neb. Rev. Stat. § 43-276

### **Informal Determining Factors**

- Knowing local judge's approach

<u>Decision</u>: Offense for which juvenile should be charged

### **Formal Determining Factors**

**Informal Determining Factors** 

- Factors under Neb. Rev. Stat. § 43-276

**System Decision Point:** 

**Pre-Adjudication Detention** 

Juvenile Court Judge

<u>Decision</u>: Whether juvenile detained at the time of citation/arrest should continue in detention or out-of-home placement pending adjudication

### **Formal Determining Factors**

- Whether there is an "immediate and urgent necessity for the protection of such juvenile"
- Whether there is an "immediate and urgent necessity for the protection of . . .the person or property of
- Whether the juvenile is likely to flee the jurisdiction of the court

### **Informal Determining Factors**

- Least restrictive means available for the safety of the child

### Discussion Notes:

- Juveniles are being detained more frequently now than 3 years ago.
- Those that are detained usually remain in detention because of such severe problems, especially with anger.
- It is estimated that of those that are detained, some go back to family and around 25% are placed with HHS.

**Probable Cause Hearing** 

Juvenile Court Judge

<u>Decision</u>: Whether State can show that probable cause exists that juvenile is within the jurisdiction of the court

### **Formal Determining Factors**

**Informal Determining Factors** 

- Neb. Rev. Stat. §43-256

### Discussion Notes:

- Detention hearings are rarely held in Otoe County

**System Decision Point:** 

**Competency Evaluation** 

Juvenile Court Judge

<u>Decision</u>: Whether juvenile is competent to participate in the proceedings

### **Formal Determining Factors**

**Informal Determining Factors** 

- Neb. Rev. Stat. §43-258 (1(b))

Decision: Whether juvenile is "responsible" for his/her acts

### **Formal Determining Factors**

**Informal Determining Factors** 

- "Complete evaluation of the juvenile including any authorized area of inquiry requested by the court."
- Opinion of physician, surgeon, psychiatrist, community mental health program, psychologist

### Discussion Notes:

- Competency objections have not come up in Otoe County in the recent past

Adjudication

Juvenile Court Judge

Decision: Whether the juvenile is, beyond a reasonable doubt, "a person described by § 43-247"

### Formal Determining Factors

**Informal Determining Factors** 

- Legal sufficiency of evidence presented during adjudication hearing
- Whether juvenile admits the allegations of the petition (or, "pleads to the charges")
- Residency
- Age

<u>Decision</u>: Whether to order probation to conduct a PDI (Pre-Disposition Investigation) statutory authority unclear--see also: § 29-2261 (2)

### **Formal Determining Factors**

### **Informal Determining Factors**

### Discussion Notes:

- Even if the judge does not order a PDI, some type of evaluation is usually ordered
- If the offense is a true "first" for the juvenile, the judge consistently orders a PDI

<u>Decision</u>: Whether to order OJS (Office of Juvenile Services) evaluation

### **Formal Determining Factors**

- NRS § 29-2204 (3): "Prior to making a disposition which commits the juvenile to the Office of Juvenile Services, the court shall order the juvenile to be evaluated by the office if the juvenile has not had an evaluation within the past twelve months.

### **Informal Determining Factors**

- If PDI does not give the information needed for disposition an OJS evaluation may be ordered
- If placement is outside the home a residential evaluation will be ordered – for in home placement, a community evaluation will be ordered

Decision: Whether to order a PDI and an OJS Evaluation

### **Formal Determining Factors**

### **Informal Determining Factors**

- Presumably supplement each other
- Uncertainty about whether probation or commitment to OJS is in the juvenile's best interest

**Disposition** 

Juvenile Court Judge

<u>Decision</u>: Whether to place juvenile on probation

**Formal Determining Factors** 

### **Informal Determining Factors**

- An individualized approach to each case
- Informal probation to the court is common for first time, minor offenses
- Most status offense cases are disposed of through HHS for services

### Discussion Notes:

If an informal probation is not satisfied, the judge might order a PDI or OJS evaluation

<u>Decision</u>: Whether to commit juvenile to the Office of Juvenile Services (OJS)

### **Formal Determining Factors**

- Whether juvenile is at least twelve years of age

### **Informal Determining Factors**

- Judge will order a juvenile a commitment to OJS to offer in-home services
- No positive view of YRTC

### Discussion Notes:

- OJS has a "tracker" and Probation does not
- If a juvenile is in need of psychiatric services, placement with OJS is ordered in order to access such services; Probation has less access to services
- More services can be provided through placement with HHS/OJS, giving them the responsibility of supervision and accessible treatment or rehabilitation options for the youth.
- HHS has been attempting to terminate cases as quickly as possible and most of the time this is premature, before all needed services can be received. The judge is very good about determining the termination of a case based on the needs of the individual juvenile, and whether appropriate services were received, and not based solely on a recommendation from HHS.

Decision: Whether to place juvenile on probation and commit juvenile to HHS or OJS

### **Formal Determining Factors**

### - As outlined in statute

### **Informal Determining Factors**

- Judge does not assign dual supervision cases
- Whether certain services are available through OJS or probation

### Discussion Notes:

- Services specifically geared towards juveniles are scarce in Otoe County. For example, intensive outpatient treatment is not available for juveniles, so juveniles are sent to Omaha or Lincoln, and then transportation becomes an issue. NA and AA meetings are adult focused.
- Not as many services can be accessed through Probation as through OJS. If Probation exhausts all services options available, and the juvenile is in need of further programming, Probation asks for probation to be revoked and the juvenile committed to OJS, so appropriate services become available and may be paid for (through Magellen).
- Frustration is high with OJS. Staffing is perpetually low, turnover is very frequent. This results in lack of continuity and difficulty in developing relationships. Whereas Probation communicates with law enforcement about a juvenile's probation orders, OJS does not communicate with law enforcement, especially about status and restrictions such as curfew.

### **System Decision Point:**

**Administrative Sanctions** 

Probation

<u>Decision</u>: Whether to impose administrative sanctions

### **Formal Determining Factors**

- Probation officer has reasonable cause to believe that probationer has committed or is about to commit a substance abuse violation or a non criminal violation
- Substance abuse violation refers to a positive test for drug or alcohol use, failure to report for such a test or failure to comply with substance abuse evaluations or treatment

**Informal Determining Factors** 

**Motion To Revoke Probation** 

County Attorney

<u>Decision</u>: Whether to file a motion to revoke probation

**Formal Determining Factors** 

- As outlined in statute

**Informal Determining Factors** 

- If a motion to revoke is requested by

Probation, it is filed

**System Decision Point:** 

**Modification/Revocation of Probation** 

Juvenile Court Judge

<u>Decision</u>: Whether to modify or revoke probation

Formal Determining Factors

**Informal Determining Factors** 

- Case-by-case determination

**System Decision Point:** 

Setting Aside Adjudication

Juvenile Court Judge

<u>Decision</u>: Whether juvenile has satisfactorily completed his or her probation and supervision or treatment program of his or her commitment

### **Formal Determining Factors**

- Juvenile's post-adjudication behavior and response to treatment and rehabilitation programs
- Whether setting aside adjudication will depreciate seriousness of juvenile's conduct or promote disrespect for the law
- Whether failure to set aside adjudication may result in disabilities disproportionate to the conduct upon which the adjudication was based

### **Informal Determining Factors**

Recommendations made by Probation or OJS

### Discussion Notes:

- Very few adjudications are set aside

<u>Decision</u>: Whether juvenile should be discharged from custody and supervision of OJS

### **Formal Determining Factors**

- Presumably same as those for probation

### **Informal Determining Factors**

- OJS requests termination at a review hearing

### Discussion Notes:

- As outlined in statute, OJS is given the discretion to release juveniles, but they very rarely release them on their own—they request the judge to order termination

### Summary:

Otoe County juvenile justice professionals met to discuss the community planning tool for the juvenile comprehensive plan. Otoe County has a very active and committed group to address juvenile justice issues which has led to creativity in finding resources in and outside the community to deal with such issues.

Otoe County has continued to make progress in addressing priorities by continually re-evaluating and implementing new ideas. For example, the Family Resources Center is in the works and will be completed soon, allowing justice and service professional to gain a better understanding of one another's role in serving youth and their families, by working together to minimize coordination conflicts and improve the match between juveniles and the services needed. Also, a CASA program is being established to advance advocacy in the court system for juveniles in Otoe County.

- 1) One significant obstacle is the rural nature of the county. Numbers do not always justify specific programming for juveniles, so youth must access available services in the Omaha and Lincoln areas. Transportation then becomes the solution—how to get the families to services outside of Otoe County. Otoe County continues to look for new ways to address the challenges of a juvenile justice system in rural Nebraska.
- 2) Data collection and management is an ongoing problem—needing to be obtained in a more efficient, accurate and timely manner. Justice and service professionals currently produce data in isolation of each other. An improved way of collecting and managing data will assist in proper evaluation of programming and for grant writing purposes to obtain funds to support and/or implement new programs.
  - a. The Nebraska Crime Commission can be relied upon for some data, but currently the Otoe County Sheriff's office is not reporting their numbers to the Crime Commission, so such data becomes unreliable when such an important data piece is missing.
  - b. Benefits to establishing a statewide diversion data system include knowing whether individual juveniles are, or have been, on diversion in another county in Nebraska. If such system is implemented, safeguards would need to be implemented so information is not misused.
- 3) Otoe County is geographically in the middle of two staff/secure options in Lancaster and Sarpy Counties, approximately 45 minutes in each direction. The only option for law enforcement, probation, and the courts is for a juvenile to be left at a facility or released home to a parent/guardian. Though electronic monitoring was not seen as needed at this point, it should be kept in mind if data shows a need in lieu of detention, especially since more juveniles are being detained. Creating a place in Otoe County, or in the region, to detain juveniles would be ideal, though is not currently a feasible idea because the numbers would not justify such action becoming a priority.
  - a. Related to detention facilities is the need for a juvenile detoxification facility when a juvenile is too severely under the influence to be held at a juvenile detention center. Again, based on numbers, when this becomes a priority, a regional "juvenile detox center" may be the solution.

- 4) When the Diversion Program in Otoe County was originally created, it was focused on offenders charged with possession of alcohol, as that was the main issue of the participants. Now juveniles coming into the program have been charged with a whole array of offenses. Programming should be expanded within Diversion to address other issues beyond possession of alcohol. Diversion and the County Attorney's office shall work together on processes when upon intake, a juvenile is deemed high risk and not amenable to services Diversion offers.
- 5) Alcohol use among juveniles remains a significant concern. A coordinated response is needed, and with the Partners for Otoe County Community Coalition, Otoe County is poised to manage such efforts in the most effective way possible.
- 6) There is high frustration with HHS—OJS.
  - a. Though the YLS/CMI is being used across agencies, it is felt the OJS tries to minimize issues.
  - b. OJS, because of political pressures, attempts to terminate cases prematurely.
  - c. There is high turnover within OJS, therefore relationships are difficult to develop. OJS always seems to be short-staffed.
  - d. OJS has more services to offer juveniles than Probation. This sometimes results in juveniles being placed with OJS instead of put on Probation to access programming unavailable under the Probation system.